Reliance Infocom Share Episode

†1702. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to conduct an inquiry into Reliance Infocom 'Share Episode' by some agency; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the person/companies connected with the share episode?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHIMARAN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Illegal rerouting of calls

1703. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for BSNL not pursuing ADC payable for ILD calls terminating on mobile networks for which it should receive an ADC;

(b) whether BSNL in pursuing the illegal rerouting of calls since 1st May, 2003 or for a shorter period of time;

(c) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the DoT believe, according to the TRAI Gray Market Committee Report of 13th August, 2003, that in addition to national security and loss to exchequer revenue, illegal rerouting of calls takes away traffic from licensed operators, thus adversely affect competition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) BSNL is consistently pursuing for payment of ADC payable for ILD calls terminating on mobile networks as per prevailing regulation. This ADC is realised from ILD operators based upon traffic declared by Cellular Operators. BSNL insist the Cellular Operators to provide certificate regarding terminating traffic in their network. In case certificate is not received, IUC payment to be made to the Cellular Operator is withheld.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) As per the report received from BSNL, it is pursuing the illegal rerouting of calls even since prior to 1st May, 2003 and continues to do so at present also. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. (RIL) a Unified Access Service Provider was found changing the Calling Line Identification (CLI) of incoming international calls to domestic CLI and then handing over to BSNL as domestic calls. BSNL has raised bills for arrears to M/s RIL as per the terms and conditions of the Interconnect Agreement.

As and when cases of illegal rerouting of calls has come to the notice of BSNL these have been brought to the notice of DoT and TRAI.

The case of subscriber local dialing facility extended by Cellular Operators in 2003 was also brought to the notice of Department of Telecommunications. The Department issued instructions to stop the facility in June, 2003.

In case of M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd., a penalty of Rs. 150 crores was imposed by the Department of Telecommunications for violation of terms and conditions of licences. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. has paid penalty of Rs. 150 crores on 7.3.2005.

(d) The illegal routing of international calls through grey market takes away traffic from licensed operators.

Quality of MTNL and BSNL Mobile Services

†1704. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that MTNL and BSNL mobile services are lagging behind when compared to mobile services of other private companies from quality point of view;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that under both the above mentioned mobile services, though one gets roaming facility yet lack of clear-cut voice, frequent call-drops and network problem has become a common feature; and

(c) the details of the plan devised by Government to make the mobile services better than that of other companies alongwith the date of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.